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Viewing cable 09NEWDELHI594, INDO-IRANIAN RELATIONSHIP: FORMER AMBASSADORS TO

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Understanding cables

Every cable message consists of three parts:

- The top box shows each cables unique reference number, when and by whom it originally was sent, and what its initial classification was.
- The middle box contains the header information that is associated with the cable. It includes information about the receiver(s) as well as a general subject.
- The bottom box presents the body of the cable. The opening can contain a more specific subject, references to other cables ([browse by origin](#) to find them) or additional comment. This is followed by the main contents of the cable: a summary, a collection of specific topics and a comment section.

To understand the justification used for the classification of each cable, please use this [WikiSource](#) article as reference.

Discussing cables

If you find meaningful or important information in a cable, please link directly to its unique reference number. Linking to a specific paragraph in the body of a cable is also possible by copying the appropriate link (to be found at the paragraph symbol). Please mark messages for social networking services like Twitter with the hash tags #cablegate and a hash containing the reference ID e.g. #09NEWDELHI594.

Reference ID	Created	Released	Classification	Origin
09NEWDELHI594	2009-03-27 11:17 2011-08-30 01:44		CONFIDENTIAL//NOFORN	Embassy New Delhi

Appears in these articles:

<http://www.thehindu.com/news/the-india-cables/article1539453.ece>

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OO RUEHBC RUEHBFI RUEHC1 RUEHDBU RUEHDE RUEHDIF RUEHKUK RUEHLH RUEHPW
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O 271117Z MAR 09
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5926
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNIRA/IRAN COLLECTIVE
RUEHB/JAMEMBASSY BEIJING 7501
RUEHLO/AMEMBASSY LONDON 6123
RUEHMO/AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 3233
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 6198
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RHEHAAA/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
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RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 03 NEW DELHI 000594

SIPDIS

DEPT OF ENERGY TOM CUTLER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/27/2019
TAGS: PREL PGOV MNUC EPET IR PK IN

SUBJECT: INDO-IRANIAN RELATIONSHIP: FORMER AMBASSADORS TO
SUBJECT: INDO-IRANIAN RELATIONSHIP: FORMER AMBASSADORS TO IRAN SHARE THEIR VIEWS
REF: A. NEW DELHI 00451 B. KABUL 00705

Classified By: Acting CDA White Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

¶1. (C) Summary: Five former Ambassadors to Iran now in Delhi recently shared with us their views on the current Indo-Iranian relationship. ¶
India-Iran Relations: Stable but Shallow

¶2. (C) On 13 March, the Charge d'Affaires hosted a lunch for four ambassadors in Delhi who served as ambassadors to Iran to discuss the Indo-Iranian relationship. The Swiss Ambassador to India, Philippe Welti, served in Iran 2003-2008 (Switzerland acts as the protecting power for the U.S. in Iran); - Th
Additionally, on March 23 Acting PolCouns met with Ambassador K.C. Singh, a retired high-level Indian diplomat who served as India's Ambassador to Iran.

¶3. (C) The consensus among the five ambassadors was that barring an unforeseen change in policy after elections in Iran and India in the coming year, the relationship will remain stable.

¶4. (C) There is a misconception in the West that India has a close relationship with Iran, according to Ambassador Singh, who during his tenure as Ambassador to Iran, worked closely with the Iranian government.

¶5. (C) India's leverage with Iran has significantly decreased, according to Singh, who expressed uncertainty at how much India would be able to influence Iran's foreign policy. India is opposed to another Regional Nuclear Power.

NEW DELHI 00000594 002 OF 003

¶6. (C) A nuclear Iran looms large in any discussion of Indo-Iranian ties, particularly given India's own nuclear program. India is not interested in a nuclear-armed Iran.

¶7. (C) Iran, on the other hand, does not want to abandon its pursuit of a nuclear weapon because the government and Iranian citizens see this as a source of national pride and strength.

¶8. (C) Ambassador Welti shared his view that Iran's top decision makers can never be reliable because the power distribution is too wide and centralized.

Indo-Iranian Cooperation on Afghanistan

¶9. (C) In discussing Iran's shared interests with India, the Ambassadors focused on reconstruction in Afghanistan and how to deal with the Taliban.

¶10. (C) Some of the Ambassadors also believed Iran and India could aid Afghan reconstruction by working together on infrastructure projects.

Thin Business Ties

¶11. (C) The Ambassadors agreed that energy cooperation is the top bilateral issue between India and Iran, but most noted that other than trade, there is little economic cooperation between the two countries.

NEW DELHI 00000594 003 OF 003

cooperation had been limited due to the stalled Iran-Pakistan-India (IPI) pipeline. The proposed pipeline has been indefinitely placed on hold.

¶12. (C) Ultimately, what is really stopping Indians from engaging in more business ventures with Iran, explained Singh, is 1) the difficulty of doing business in Iran, 2) the lack of infrastructure, and 3) the political instability in Iran.

~~¶~~13. (C) Comment: The observations our experienced contacts shared with us demonstrate that India's limited yet stable relationship with Iran is
WHITE "